

Dear Senator Bye, Representative Walker, and esteemed members of the Appropriations Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Bill Howe. I am an educator from Glastonbury where I have lived for almost 30 years with my wife Dianne, a retired psychotherapist.

I am here in support of the Connecticut Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission, a commission that took almost 10 years to bring to reality. I am proud to have worked on the efforts to have the commission created and I am proud to be the Past Chair of the commission.

I have been actively involved in the Asian American community now for almost 30 years. I have written and given lectures about both the needs of the great contributions of Asian Americans this country. Asian Americans are the fastest-growing ethnic group in this country but although we are often seen as a model minority, the truth is that our community still has significant numbers of people that struggle to obtain the American dream. We still face discrimination in employment, housing, religion and other civil rights that are taken for granted by other Americans. The Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission exists to provide a voice for those that cannot speak for themselves.

This year, as the state has generously opened up its arms to refugees from Syria and other war-torn countries, it is important to remember that the compassion we offer to our new arrivals should extend also to the people that have been living here, working long hours, paying taxes, obeying the law, but still have needs to be met. We are not asking for more – we are asking for the same rights and privileges afforded to others living in this great state.

I thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William A. Howe". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

William A. Howe, Ed.D.